

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are in the application.

Except for the correction of a typographical error in claim 3, the claims are unchanged.

Claim 3 has been amended to make the correction required by the Examiner.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-10 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Momose and of claims 1-10 as being unpatentable over Yatake, are respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the references relied on by the Examiner do not disclose or suggest the present invention as it is claimed in claim 1.

Specifically, the references do not disclose or suggest the combination of drying retarders set forth in claim 1.

Also, the references do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of components of an ink base as set forth in claim 9

of the present application.

It is submitted that the compositions disclosed in the references are not capable of meeting the object of the present invention as set forth in the first paragraph on page 5 of the specification.

Moreover, a combination of the references also does not lead to the solution provided by the present invention because, as also indicated by the Examiner, the references merely contain an enumeration of different drying retarders, wherein these drying retarders are always used for a specific ink and cannot be used universally.

The drying retarders used in accordance with the present invention have the following well known properties.

Diethylene glycol, which is liquid at room temperature, would not be sufficient by itself as a drying retarder because very large quantities would have to be used to be effective. In addition, it is harmful to health.

Hexane diol, which is solid at room temperature, acts more strongly than diethylene glycol and is not harmful to health.

This component forms a closure over the nozzle which can be removed, so that a cap-off effect occurs. The compound cannot be used by itself because it would clog nozzles and lines.

Pentaerythritol, which is solid at room temperature, has similar properties as hexane diol, but with a higher efficiency.

By combining the three compounds mentioned above, the drying retarder according to the present invention makes it possible to simultaneously meet the requirements of retarding drying on paper in a useful manner and to protect against drying of the ink at the nozzles, while preventing clogging and drying at the nozzles. In other words, an optimum moisture content at the nozzles is achieved.

If hexane diol and pentaerythritol were to be used without diethylene glycol, the printed image would become streaky. In other words, the object of the present invention could not be met.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the claims presently in the application are allowable over the art of record.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 29, 2004.

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